

### Remarks

Further to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and suspension of action filed May 12, 2004, it is respectfully requested that examination be resumed in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1, 4-10 and 13-18 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 10 being independent. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended herein.

Applicants' undersigned representative wishes to thank the Examiner and her supervisor for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of May 18, 2004. During that interview, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 from the Office Action dated January 12, 2004, was discussed. It was agreed during the interview that if the claims were amended to recite that "the at least one bubble is allowed to go up to a location immediately adjacent to said at least one channel adjoining said buffer portion," the claims would be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been so amended and Claim 10 has been amended similarly herein. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are requested.

Applicants also request that the Examiner provide a clearer copy of the initialled Form PTO-1449 dated September 24, 2003, which was forwarded with the Office Action dated January 12, 2004. The received form, a copy of which is attached, is illegible.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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